



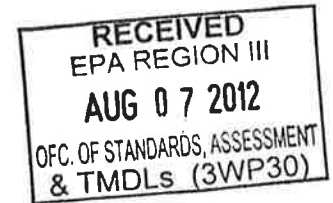
# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay Field Office  
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
<http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay>



July 27, 2012



Mr. Larry Merrill, Associate Director  
Office of Standards, Assessment & Total Maximum Daily Loads  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

*RE: Biological Evaluation for Maryland's Revised Water Quality Standards*

Dear Mr. Merrill:

In response to your request of June 6, 2012, we have reviewed the Biological Evaluation prepared by EPA for Maryland's proposed revised water quality standards regulations. These comments are provided in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Based on our review of your Biological Assessment and discussion with Mark Barath of your staff, we concur with EPA's conclusion that Maryland's adoption of these revised regulations is not likely to adversely affect threatened and endangered species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Thank you for coordinating with us. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Andy Moser of my Endangered Species Program at (410) 573-4537.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Genevieve LaRouche  
Supervisor

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